

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Amend claims 1-5, as follows.

Add new claim 6.

**Listing of Claims:**

- 1           1. (Amended) A computer-implemented method for identifying
- 2   ~~among in~~ a list of texts those texts whose ~~that have~~ edit distance from a
- 3   search string ~~that~~ is less than a threshold value, said method comprising:
- 4           (a) obtaining the search string and the threshold value;
- 5           (b) ~~beginning with~~ selecting a first text from a the list of texts as a
- 6   present computation text;
- 7           ~~providing a search string and a threshold value;~~
- 8           (c) performing computing, column-by-column, a grid ~~computation~~ of
- 9   edit distance values between the search string and the present
- 10   computation text, text;
- 11           (d) ~~stopping early if a column~~ the computing in response to
- 12   computing a column whose minimum value of edit distance is at least the
- 13   threshold value;
- 14           (e) in response to completing the computing and ~~if the computed~~
- 15   edit distance from the present computation text to the search string being
- 16   ~~is computed and is below the threshold value, then reporting that~~
- 17   generating an indication that the edit distance of the present computation
- 18   ~~text is close to from the search string in edit distance; is less than the~~
- 19   threshold value;
- 20           (f) in response to either stopping the computing, or completing the
- 21   computing and the edit distance from the present computation text to the
- 22   search string not being below the threshold value, forbearing from the
- 23   indicating;

- 24            (g) in response to completing the computing, selecting if all  
25 ~~columns are computed, then setting the next computation text to the a~~  
26 ~~next text text, in the list after the present computation text text, as the~~  
27 ~~present computation text;~~  
28            (h) in response to stopping the computing, selecting if not all  
29 ~~columns are computed, then setting the next computation text to the a~~  
30 ~~next text text, in the list after the present computation text text, that does~~  
31 ~~not share with the present computation text the a prefix corresponding to~~  
32 ~~the columns of the grid up to and including the column with whose~~  
33 ~~minimum value of edit distance is at least the threshold value, as the~~  
34 ~~present computation text;~~  
35            (i) in response to step (h), returning to steps (c) et seq.;  
36            (j) in response to step (g), returning to steps (c) et seq., applying  
37 ~~the same procedure as for the first computation text, but re-using in step~~  
38 ~~(c) columns of the grid computed for previous said computation text~~  
39 ~~corresponding that correspond to any prefix shared with by the previous~~  
40 ~~computation text and the present computation text; and~~  
41            (k) continuing to perform steps (c) et seq. until selecting reaches an  
42 ~~end of the text list is exhausted.~~

1            2. **(Amended)** The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2            ordering the text list in a sequence to place texts with shared  
3            prefixes ~~together in the list~~ adjacent one to another in the sequence.

1            3. **(Amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein the step of  
2            ~~performing a column-by-column grid computation of edit distance~~  
3            computing further comprises the steps of:  
4            after a an individual column is computed, identifying the a range of  
5            rows of the grid extending from a first row that includes a the lowest cell of  
6            the individual column that has an edit distance with value less lower than

7    the limit threshold value to a last row that includes a the highest cell of the  
8    individual column that has an edit distance with value less lower than the  
9    limit threshold value;  
10       in ~~the~~ a next column, not computing the edit distance values of the  
11    cells in rows of the grid that are below this range (~~if the bottom~~ , in  
12    response to a border cell of the next column has having an edit distance  
13    value at least equal to the threshold) threshold value;  
14       in the next column, computing the edit distance values of the cells  
15    in rows of the grid that are below this range, in response to the border cell  
16    of the next column having an edit distance value lower than the threshold  
17    value;  
18       in the next column, computing normally the edit distance values of  
19    the cells ~~along~~ in rows of the grid that are in this range and one ~~higher,~~  
20    higher; and  
21       in the next column, computing the edit distance value of each of the  
22    individual cells in rows of the grid that are above this range, based only on  
23    the edit distance value of a each cell that is below the individual cell, only  
24    until a cell with an edit distance value at least equal to the limit threshold  
25    value is computed.

1       4. **(Amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein the columns of the  
2    grid correspond to characters of the computation text and rows of the grid  
3    correspond to characters of the search string, the method further  
4    comprising the steps of:  
5       making an alternative ~~text~~ list of texts to an original said list of texts  
6    in which each occurrence in the texts of a character in a set of characters  
7    is replaced by ~~some~~ a determined character in the set;  
8       ~~when a search is performed, if in response to~~ the search string  
9    ~~lacks lacking~~ all characters in said set of characters, ~~then~~-using the  
10    alternative ~~text~~ list of texts rather than the original ~~text~~ list of texts to

11 identify those texts whose edit distance from the search string is less than  
12 the threshold value; and  
13 in response to the search string not lacking all characters in said  
14 set, using the original list of texts to identify those texts whose edit  
15 distance from the search string is less than the threshold value.

1 5. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the columns of the  
2 grid correspond to characters of the computation text and rows of the grid  
3 correspond to characters of the search string, and wherein the step of  
4 ~~performing a column-by-column grid computation of edit distance further~~  
5 computing comprises the steps of:

6 ~~if the present computation text is not the first~~ re-using a column of  
7 the grid of the previous computation text for an individual column of the  
8 grid of the present computation text if the previous, in response to the  
9 present computation text not being a first said selected computation text  
10 and a preceding column of the grid of the present computation text having  
11 ~~is the same~~ edit distance values as a preceding column of the grid of ~~for~~  
12 the previous computation text, and at least one of the following conditions  
13 ~~holds~~being true:

14 the ~~characters~~ character corresponding to the individual column in  
15 of the grid of the present computation text and the character  
16 corresponding to the column of the previous computation text are the  
17 ~~same;~~ a same character,

18 the search string lacks the ~~characters~~ character corresponding to  
19 the individual column in of the grid of the present computation text and the  
20 character corresponding to the column of the previous computation text;  
21 and

22 otherwise computing the individual column of the grid of the present  
23 computation text.

Serial No. 10/775,576

Amdt. Dated 31 October 2006

Reply to Office Action of August 23, 2006

1           6. **(New)** The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2           prior to step (b), sorting the texts in the list in lexicographical order.

3

4           7. **(New)** The method of claim 1 wherein:  
5           computing comprises  
6           using dynamic programming to perform the computing.